

Randy woke up suddenly from a deep sleep. Outside, the morning light was changing from black to a light gray. Randy felt a scared feeling deep down in the bottom of his stomach. Today was the day for basketball tryouts at Westview School. This was the first year Westview School had had a ball team, and Randy wanted to be one of the first players. Randy looked at his alarm clock and saw that the hands pointed to five o'clock in the morning. Randy groaned and turned over in bed. He had to wait three more hours until tryouts. When the alarm rang at 6:00, Randy got up and dressed as fast as he could.

When he got to the kitchen, his mom was frying bacon and eggs. "Good morning, Randy," Mom said. "A strong basketball player needs a good breakfast." "I don't know, Mom," said Randy. "I feel too scared to eat." "Well, Randy," said Mom, "you need to eat some energy food before the tryouts." "OK, Mom, I'll try to eat," said Randy.

After a big breakfast of bacon, eggs, and toast, Randy headed off to school. "Hey, Randy, wait for me!" yelled Eric, Randy's best friend. When Eric caught up with Randy, he stopped and bent down, holding his knees and panting. "Whew, I'm glad it's you trying out for the team and not me," said Eric. "Thanks a lot, Eric," said Randy. "I'm scared I won't make it." "Oh yeah, you will," said Eric, with a friendly slap on Randy's back.

After all of the students were in homeroom, the principal came on the loudspeaker and said, "All boys trying out for the team, please report to the gym." Randy headed for the gym, with his heart pounding loudly. The coach gave the boys a pep talk about being good sports, and then the tryouts began. One after another, the boys ran, dribbled

the ball, and shot the hoop. Randy forgot all about being scared as he ran and shot baskets with the rest of the boys.

At the end of the tryouts, Randy sat on the bench, tired but happy. He knew he had done his best and that was really all that mattered. The coach began to call out names of the boys who had made the new team. Randy's name was called and he stood up with a big grin on his face. He knew Eric and his mom would be proud of him, but Randy was proudest of all. He had done his best and that was good enough.

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